

July 30, 2009 - Murtha: House Passes Defense Appropriations Bill, Local Programs Funded

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that the House of Representatives has passed (400-30) a \$636.3 billion fiscal year 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill which includes funding for numerous local businesses, organizations, and universities working with the Defense Department on research and procurement programs.

"This appropriations bill supports our troops and their families and prepares our Armed Forces for both current and future, unconventional and conventional conflicts," said Murtha.

"I'm proud to secure funding for local programs that are providing our troops and the Defense Department with advanced technology, quality equipment, and other important services," added Murtha. "These programs showcase the talent of small businesses, the skills of our local employees, and in many cases ends up saving the government money."

Murtha unveiled details of the FY10 Defense Appropriations Bill during Subcommittee mark-up on July 16, 2009, and today announced that \$89.2 million in funding is coming to western Pennsylvania:

The appropriations bill includes \$5,000,000 for Advanced Acoustic Concepts, located in Lemont Furnace, to improve submarine navigation, including route planning and vulnerability management, on the U.S. Navy's Virginia Class submarines.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$8,000,000 for Argon ST, located in Smithfield, to continue working with the U.S. Navy on upgrading torpedo defense capabilities which are crucial to enhancing ship survivability against torpedo attack.

Compass Systems
of Johnstown

will receive \$3,500,000 to provide the Defense Department with a hand-held mobile mapping communications device that will enable a more rapid, accurate, efficient, analysis and dissemination of digital data from multiple sensors.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$800,000 for Exceptional Parent, located in Johnstown, to extend and expand their successful work with military families using print, online, and interactive resources for those with a wide array of disabilities. These tools and educational programs are provided to military health care professionals, families, and those with special needs.

The appropriations bill also includes \$2,600,000 for ESRI of Johnstown to provide the U.S. Army with a common set of data models for terrain and tactical data entities. This program will provide commanders and soldiers with a deeper understanding of the battlespace by enabling consideration of geospatial factors.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$3,800,000 for Feather Lite Breaks, located in Mount Pleasant, to manufacture cost-effective, lightweight, high performance titanium forged powder rotors for military ground vehicles.

Gautier Steel of Johnstown will receive \$8,100,000 to continue the conversion of their steel producing facility to a titanium producing facility which provides the Defense Department Industrial Base with immediate rolling/conversion capability for low-cost, armor grade titanium.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$2,200,000 for KDH Defense Systems, located in Johnstown, to continue research and development of improved light body armor that provides greater underarm, side, arm, and leg protection against both high velocity rounds and explosives.

Latrobe Specialty Steel will receive \$10,000,000 for the Inventory for Defense Applications project. This project will help decrease the Defense Department's long lead times for aviation and other high performance equipment parts that are essential to maintaining operational readiness.

The appropriations bill also includes \$5,000,000 for MTS Technologies, located in Johnstown, to continue development of an Army vehicle diagnostic and readiness system that will improve the scheduling of maintenance and repairs, reduce logistics costs, and provide safer vehicles for our troops.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$6,000,000 for Nokomis Inc. of Charleroi to continue development of detection, identification, and anti-IED technology. IED's have killed and/or injured tens-of-thousands of American service members in Iraq and Afghanistan, and it's crucial that technology be provided to our troops which effectively identifies and defeats these explosives.

Optical Systems

Technology Inc., located in Freeport, will receive \$4,000,000 for the Military Lens System Fabrication and Assembly project. This project will create a domestic high-capacity production capability for cost-effective advanced military optical components.

The appropriations bill includes \$2,900,000 for The Pennsylvania State University Fayette, the Eberly Campus to develop new non-lethal technologies to maintain public safety without being forced to use lethal means in hostile environments.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$4,000,000 for Pittsburgh Electric Engines Inc., located in Mount Pleasant, to continue the design of a drop-in turbo fuel cell replacement engine that produces greater power and uses less fuel consumption than existing Army diesel engines. The current turbo fuel cell engine being designed by PEEI uses 40 percent less fuel than existing diesel engines and has virtually no emissions, making this project both important for cost savings and the environment.

Pittsburgh Gateways

Corporation, located in Pittsburgh, will receive \$3,000,000 for the FirstLink Technology Transfer Program which provides expertise in technology analysis, assessment, and advice for product commercialization to the Defense Department. This program has facilitated over 130 technology transfer agreements to date and has saved the Department of Defense more than \$3.5 million.

The appropriations bill also includes \$2,300,000 for Planning Systems Inc. of Uniontown to continue development of a next generation precision airdrop system that will enable aircrews to make airdrops more accurate on the first pass, thus enhancing aircraft and aircrew survivability.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$3,000,000 for RJ Lee Group, located in Waynesburg, to continue development of a data repository center that integrates and centralizes Air Force engine data and applications. This system allows engineers and maintainers to see the wear, health, and performance of aircraft engines and saves costs by reducing the need for unnecessary maintenance.

Trident Systems, located in Uniontown, will receive \$3,500,000 to continue development and delivery of a water-craft radar system capable of penetrating foliage environments along rivers and coastlines. With the emphasized importance of littoral missions, U.S. Special Forces need advanced radar systems that allows them to observe and monitor threats at all times of the day and during any type of weather.

The appropriations bill also includes \$5,000,000 for Ultra Electronics, located in Lemont Furnace, to provide the Joint Forces Component Command for Global Strike with a user-defined program that allows commanders to see 3D visualizations overlayed with military ground, sea and air assets.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$3,500,000 for UFR/QTL Chem Bio Defense Systems of Lemont Furnace to continue development of a remote bio-medical detector that can quickly detect different chemical/protein agents activated during a cardiac arrest situation. By allowing combat medics to quickly diagnose the arrest and deliver appropriate care, this detector will significantly reduce misdiagnosis that could potentially further damage the heart and other organs.

The University of Pittsburgh will receive \$3,000,000 to develop and implement a predictive diagnostics and therapeutics project that uses "Smart" electronic health records to optimize care for civilian and military patients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The FY10 Defense Appropriations Bill also makes key national investments into:

- Military Pay Raise:
The bill provides a 3.4% military pay increase, 0.5% above the request.

- First Class Medical

Care: \$30 billion, \$2 billion above the request, to provide our troops and their families with first-class medical care.

• Family Advocacy

Programs: \$472.4 million for Family Advocacy programs and fully funds Family Support and Yellow Ribbon programs.

In addition, the bill includes \$20 million for Army National Guard Family Assistance Centers and reintegration.

• National Guard and

Reserve Equipment: \$500 million for the procurement of National Guard and Reserve Equipment for both state and federal missions, not requested.

The U.S. Senate is expected to consider the FY10 Defense Appropriations Bill in September. For more information, please view the House Appropriations Committee summary of the bill.

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